



WENDY L. WATANABE
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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March 20, 2013

TO: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

Michael J. Gennaco
Chief Attorney, Office of Independent Review

SUBJECT: **STATUS REPORT – EXTENSION REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SALE OF POLICE EQUIPMENT TO CITY
OF GARDENA AND TRANSFER TO CAMBODIA (Board Agenda Item
6, February 19, 2013)**

On February 19, 2013, your Board instructed the Auditor-Controller to review the City of Gardena's purchase of ballistic vests from the Sheriff's Department (Sheriff's), and the export of those vests, along with several police vehicles, to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

In addition, your Board instructed the Office of Independent Review (OIR) to determine whether there was collusion with an unidentified third party through the sale of the vests and vehicles to the City of Gardena. Your Board also requested that OIR review whether the vests went to a law enforcement agency, and report any violations of the law or relevant policies.

We are currently reviewing whether federal, State, or local statutes were violated, and if County policies governing the disposition of surplus property were followed. We are also conducting investigative interviews with Internal Services Department and Sheriff's staff who were involved in or had knowledge of these transactions, and personnel from various outside agencies including the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau, the Cambodian Consulate, and the City of Gardena. We

anticipate completing our investigation and issuing our final report to your Board by May 31, 2013.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Guy Zelenski at (213) 893-0058.

WLW:RGC:GZ:RHL:sr

Case #2013-7677
BOS #13-003

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors